

**Fiscal Year 2005 Business Plan  
MLRA Soil Survey Region 13  
West Virginia Soil Survey Program**

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***OUR MISSION:*** *Providing leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment through a better understanding of soils. We are committed to helping field staff develop and publish quality soil surveys in any format. Our focus is on making the customer successful, particularly our field service center staff as they work to implement the Farm Bill.*

***OUR VISION:*** *We want a soil survey program that meets the challenges of the new age where our database is dynamic, technologically advanced, and easily accessible by the public we serve. Above all, we want a program that is truly representative of our Agency's \$5 billion asset.*

**Soil Survey Priorities for Fiscal Year 2005:**

- Develop and Implement Web Soil Survey to *streamline* the delivery of published soil surveys
- Expand the use of new technology in soil survey offices, improving efficiency and quality of our soil surveys
- Develop an MLRA Management Area plan to *improve program management*
- Market the NCSS, strengthen partnerships, and utilize outreach programs to improve diversity

**Other Priority Initiatives:**

- Update mapping in high priority areas
- Providing SSURGO data for the Customer Service Tool Kit
- Support the states in MO-13 in quality assurance, investigations, lab data, and cartography
- Begin collection of use-dependent soil properties on minesoils
- Take advantage of all training opportunities, particularly for new staff

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| <i>Action Item</i> | <i>Start Date</i> | <i>Ending Date</i> | <i>Responsible Person</i> | <i>Percentage Complete</i> | <i>Comments/<br/>Earmarks</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|

**Goal 1: Reduce the Soil Survey publication backlog and shift the emphasis to electronic reports.**

**Objective 1.1: Develop a publication backlog reduction strategy with a focus on processes and resource shifts to improve operations and management efficiency.**

|          |        |                             |   |
|----------|--------|-----------------------------|---|
| Mar 2005 | Sep 05 | Carpenter/Meierdierks/Chase | 0 |
|----------|--------|-----------------------------|---|

**Objective 1.2: Publish 6 soil surveys in WV to the Internet.**

**Objective 1.3: Prepare five surveys for publication.**

|                             |          |        |                |    |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|----|
| WV015 Clay County, WV       | Sep 2004 | Sep 05 | Carpenter/Delp | 25 |
| WV017 Doddridge County, WV  | Sep 2004 | Sep 05 | Carpenter/Delp | 20 |
| WV025 Greenbrier County, WV | Sep 2004 | Sep 05 | Carpenter/Delp | 50 |
| WV065 Morgan County, WV     | Sep 2004 | Sep 05 | Carpenter/Delp | 25 |
| WV620 Logan & Mingo, WV     | Sep 2004 | Sep 05 | Carpenter/Delp | 25 |

**Objective 1.4: Work with users of soils information to promote new formats for publication through public meetings and conferences.**

|        |        |           |                             |
|--------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Feb 05 | Sep 05 | Carpenter | Completed – Morgantown 2/05 |
|--------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|

Carpenter and Delp will work to hold a soil survey work planning conference during the late Winter/early Spring 2005. The conference will be held as a public meeting with coordination and cooperation from the WVCA and the local SCD. – Completed.

**Objective 1.5: Work with states in MO-13 area to ensure that publications are not held up due to lack of technical or English edit. Priority list is outlined in Publication Pipeline Report by Ken Lubich.**

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**Goal 2: Populate the Soil Data Warehouse with Spatial Data.**

**Objective 2.1: Complete soil business requirements for SSURGO certifications as set forth in the National SSURGO 2005 Worklist:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Menifee and Rowan Counties and Northwestern Morgan County, Kentucky | Barbour County, West Virginia                     |
| Prince Georges County, Maryland                                     | Preston County, West Virginia                     |
| Guernsey County, Ohio   | Tucker County, West Virginia                      |
| Harrison County, Ohio   | Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio Counties, West Virginia |
| Pike County, Ohio   | Logan and Mingo Counties, West Virginia           |
| Clarion County, Pennsylvania  |   |
| Fayette County, Pennsylvania  |   |
| Galax City, Virginia  |   |
| Giles County, Virginia  |   |
| Grayson County, Virginia  |   |

**Goal 3: Expand technical soil services to support Farm Bill programs and Homeland Security plans.**

**Objective 3.1: Work with State Conservationist to expand resource soil scientist staff.**

|          |         |                 |
|----------|---------|-----------------|
| 10/01/04 | 9/30/05 | Carpenter/Bowen |
|----------|---------|-----------------|

**Objective 3.2: Populate Soil Data Mart with tabular data.**

|          |         |                  |
|----------|---------|------------------|
| 10/01/04 | 1/30/05 | Delp - Completed |
|----------|---------|------------------|

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| <b>Goal 4: Utilize new technology to improve efficiency in the Soil Survey.</b>  |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
| <b>Objective 4.1: Strengthen the conservation delivery system by providing SSURGO2 data for Customer Service Tool Kit and working with the NSSL and WVU to add pedons to the Soil P Retention Study. – In progress – major field work scheduled for May 2005</b> |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
| <b>Objective 4.2: Ensure timely, science-based information and technologies by working with the area resource soil scientists in providing complete and modern soil data for CST.</b>  |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
| <b>Objective 4.3.1: Strategic management of human capital. Work with WVCA to recruit and hire two state agency-supported soil scientists for update soil survey work.</b>  |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
|  | 10/01/2004        | 09/30/2005         | Carpenter/Delp            | completed 11/04            |                           |
| <b>Objective 4.3.2: Improved financial performance. Closely monitor funds and budget allocations for FY-05 by reporting on earmarks quarterly.</b>   |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
|  | 10/01/04          | 09/30/05           | Carpenter                 | 44%                        |                           |
| <b>Objective 4.3.3: Expanding E-Government. Work with NCGC to put two WV county soil surveys on the web.</b>   |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
|  | 10/01/04          | 09/30/05           | Carpenter/Meierdierks     | 0%                         |                           |
| <b>Objective 4.3.4: Budget and Program Integration. Implement direct charge method of time accounting.</b>   |                   |                    |                           |                            |                           |
|  | 10/01/04          | 09/30/05           | Carpenter                 | 0%                         |                           |

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| <b>Goal 5: Increase Outreach and workforce diversity for re-staffing soil survey field positions.</b> |                   |                    |                           |                            |                               |
| <b>Objective 5.1.1: Increase outreach activities and workforce diversity.</b>                         |                   |                    |                           |                            |                               |
| a. Hold WV Work Planning Conference.  | 2/08/05           | 2/09/05            | Carpenter/Delp            | 100% completed             |                               |
| b. Provide soil science training to USFS.   | 9/01/05           | 9/04/05            | Carpenter/Jenkins         |                            |                               |
| c. Attend the National NCSS Conference.   | 5/21/05           | 5/26/05            | Carpenter/Noll            |                            |                               |
| d. Increase workforce diversity when re-staffing.   | 1/01/04           | 2/28/05            | Carpenter                 |                            |                               |
| e. Participate in WV Conservation Partnership Conference.   | 10/26/04          | 10/28/04           | Carpenter/Delp/Noll       | 100% completed             |                               |
| f. Continue contacts with WVU and other schools for SCEP and recruitment.                             |                   |                    | Carpenter                 |                            |                               |

**Goal 6: Update mapping and maintenance projects.**

**Objective 6.1.1: Complete update mapping on 370,000 acres in West Virginia.**

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| <b>Goal 7: Digitizing SSURGO Data for customer toolkit and electronic finishing for soil survey maps for public use.</b>   |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| Digitize Morgan, Clay, and Doddridge Counties in WV.   |                   |                    | Carpenter/Delp/SSIC Staff       |                            |                           |
| Objective 7.1.1: Redirect resources to implement 2007 SSURGO plan and get backlog reduced.   |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Goal 8: Support to states in MO-13 on investigations, lab data, and cartography.</b>  |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| Objective 8.1.1: Implement new digital techniques at the SSIC for automated map check for digital map development. Carpenter and Delp will provide training and software for this transition: By Sep 05. |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Goal 9: Collection of use-dependent properties.</b>   |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| Objective 9.1: Begin collection of use-dependent soils properties on minesoils.  |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
|  | Sep 05            |                    | Carpenter/Jenkins/Staff         |                            |                           |
| <b>Goal 10: Training.</b>  |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| Objective 10.1: Provide NASIS Training to the states in MO-13.   |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| a. Hold NASIS Intermediate Training.   | 3/21/05           | 3/24/05            | Carpenter/Van Lear - COMPLETED  |                            |                           |
| b. Hold NASIS Interpretations Training.  | 2/28/05           | 3/03/05            | Carpenter/ Van Lear - COMPLETED |                            |                           |
| c. Hold NASIS Report Writing Training.   |                   | CANCELLED          |                                 |                            |                           |
| Objective 10.2: Provide 3dMapper Training for the Soil Survey Staff.   |                   |                    |                                 |                            |                           |
| a. Hold automated mapping session.   | 4/19/05           | 4/20/05            | Noll/ Moore                     |                            |                           |